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# THE JERUSALEM POST

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An IDF bulldozer demolishes the home of Hilar Haj Ibrahim in Yamoun village on Friday after Ibrahim confessed to the murder of



IDF reservist Alexander Arad (centre). Ibrahim's brother, Hillel (left), stands with his son Bilal in the ruins of the Ibrahim home. (Reuters, Wasserlauf and IDF photos)



## HITCH-HIKING IDF RESERVIST MURDERED

### Terrorist confesses, house demolished

By DAVID RUDGE and JOEL GREENBERG  
YOKNE'AM. - Security forces demolished late on Friday night the home of a Palestinian who reportedly confessed to murdering IDF reservist Alexander Arad on Thursday morning.

Arad was stabbed to death while trying to hitch a ride from the Megido Junction to his home on Kibbutz Ramot Menashe. The funeral of the 43-year-old father of two is to be held at the kibbutz this afternoon. The burial was delayed, according to Jewish custom, because of the Rosh Hashana holiday.

The suspect, Hilar Haj Ibrahim, 23, of Yamoun, near Jenin, was arrested by Border Police shortly after the incident.

He reportedly confessed to the

murder under interrogation and took investigators to the spot where he had hidden the knife used in the stabbing. Under questioning he revealed that he had served a prison term for a security offence.

The demolition of Ibrahim's home was ordered by OC Central Command Aluf Amram Mitzna.

Two other suspects were detained by police in connection with the incident, but were later released. Inquiries, however, are continuing.

Police are also investigating a possible link between the murder and an apparent attempt to kidnap a woman soldier from Kibbutz Azoreah at the same spot last Tuesday. Three men, believed to be Arabs, allegedly tried to kidnap the woman but were frightened off by the driver of a passing car.

Friends of Arad's on Kibbutz Ramot Menashe said his image was the "antithesis of violence."

"He was a very warm, quiet and modest person who loved his family very much," said kibbutz secretary Nissan Bar Kat.

A member of the Hashomer Hatzair movement in his native Cuba, Arad came to Israel in 1961, the year Fidel Castro came to power, and settled on Kibbutz Yehiam, near Nahariya.

While on Yehiam he was politically active and promoted co-existence and better relations between Jews and Arabs.

He moved to Ramot Menashe in 1981 after his marriage to Mabelle, a member of the kibbutz. The couple had two children, a girl aged five and a four-year-old boy.

As a boy, Arad suffered from polio. But he overcame his disabilities and was accepted as a volunteer in the IDF.

Bar Kat noted that the kibbutz, which is associated with Peace Now, had excellent relations with neighbouring Arab villages and their residents.

Up to now, however, they had not heard any condemnation of the murder from leaders of the Arab community in the area.

"We would expect them to come out with some form of statement condemning what happened within the next few days," he said.

Arad's murder has also caused consternation in Jewish settlements in the region and farther north. Micha Goldman, head of the Kfar (Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

## Brailovsky, 15-year refusenik arrives

LOD (Itim). - Dr. Victor Brailovsky, who has been a Soviet refusenik for 15 years, arrived here Thursday evening with his family from Moscow via Bucharest. The Brailovskys were the first olim of the new Jewish year.

Brailovsky was accompanied by his wife, Dr. Irena, their son Leonid and his wife and 13-year-old daughter and two-month-old son.

The new arrivals had an emotional reunion with Victor's brother, Mikhail, whom they had not seen for 10 years. From the airport they proceeded to the Beit Milman absorption centre in Tel Aviv where they met with Victor's 70-year-old mother and 81-year-old father, who

came on aliya seven years ago.

Due to the holiday no cabinet ministers were at the airport to greet the renowned former prisoner of Zion and his family. The only official there to greet them was Haim Aharon, the head of the Jewish Agency Immigration Department.

Brailovsky told reporters that there was certainly a change in atmosphere, but no change in policy, in the Soviet Union. What was happening was important to several scores of families and perhaps an even larger number of individuals. But working for a change in policy was even more important than the release and aliya of several families, he said.

The senior Brailovskys, who speak a fluent Hebrew, said that they had been surprised to receive permission to leave after 15 years of refusal. They said they were ordered to leave by September 25, "and we had no intention of disobeying that order."

Victor had been jailed in Moscow and then exiled to Siberia for five years in 1980 after having been found guilty of "illegally" editing and publishing a monthly entitled *The Jews of the USSR*. When he returned to Moscow in 1984 and again applied for permission to make aliya, the Brailovskys were told they had no right even to apply to leave before 1995.



Victor Brailovsky on arrival at Ben-Gurion on Thursday night. (Guthmann)



## Abba Kovner dies at 69

KIBBUTZ EIN HAHORESH (Itim). - Abba Kovner, a prominent leader of the Vilna Ghetto uprising against the Nazis, a noted author and poet in the Israel of the past four decades and a recipient of the Israel Prize, died in his kibbutz here on Rosh Hashana. He was 69.

Kovner was born in Sebastopol but moved to Vilna for his studies and remained there following the Nazi occupation. He was one of the leaders of the ghetto uprising, and survived the war by joining and leading Jewish partisan groups.

At the end of the war he was one of the organizers of the *bricha* movement which led Jewish survivors out of the East European countries to the Mediterranean ports and onto the "illegal" immigration boats to Palestine. He himself tried to get to Palestine in this "illegal" fashion but was arrested and deported and transferred to an Egyptian prison.

He returned to Palestine following his release from prison and joined (Continued on Back Page)

## Seven more killed in road accidents

TEL AVIV (Itim). - Another seven people have died on the roads since last Wednesday, the eve of Rosh Hashana.

Pinhaz Mu'alam, 25, of Kiryat Malachi, died after being hit by a truck as he was crossing the main street in his town on Wednesday.

In another accident on Wednesday, Tiran Shariki, 19, of Haifa, was killed, and three others, aged 18, 25 and 20, were seriously hurt when the car they were in overturned near the Amiad junction on the Rosh Pina-Tiberias highway.

An 11-year-old girl was run over

and killed by a speeding truck as she crossed the road near the Nuzairat refugee camp, in the Gaza Strip, on Friday. About an hour later Mahmoud Mustafa Aziz, 26, of Khan Yunis was killed when the car he was in collided with a truck at the Khan Yunis junction. Another passenger in the car, also 26, was critically injured.

Another two people were killed when their cars overturned at high speed on winding roads. One of these accidents occurred near Mitzpe Shalem, north of Ein Gedi.

Over half a million people have been killed or injured in road accidents since the establishment of the state, the IDF's chief medical officer, Prof. Yehuda Danon, reported last week. There are some 20,000 casualties, including 400 deaths, from road accidents annually. Only heart disease and cancer claim more lives every year, said Danon.

While heart and lung diseases and cancer take the lives of older people, most road accident victims are under 50. Road accidents, he said, are the main cause of death among children aged one to 14.

## Reporter stabbed after Betar J'lem soccer match

By JONATHAN KARP  
TEL AVIV. - A Yediot Aharanot reporter was stabbed yesterday in Jaffa as he left Bloomfield Stadium after covering a Betar match.

The Executive of the National Association of Israeli Journalists will meet today to consider shutting down all the daily papers and radio and television broadcasts to protest against the recent spate of attacks on journalists.

The reporter, Zadok Yehzekeli, was entering his car outside the stadium when someone called his name. Yehzekeli turned around and the man stabbed him in the hand and leg, the police said. He managed to call over a friend, who started driving him to the hospital, but along the way he was transferred to a police car.

"I felt like he was ripping me from top to bottom," Yehzekeli recalled after his operation. He described his assailant as mid-sized with dark hair.

The police made no arrests, a spokeswoman said last night, and she refused to comment on the widely-held belief that the assailant was a Betar Jerusalem fan. Yehzekeli was beaten up last April by fans of the Betar Jerusalem soccer team.

The doctor who operated on Yehzekeli said that the muscles in the journalist's hand were severed during the stabbing, and he added that had the incisions reached the bone, the hand would most probably have had to be amputated.

Reuven Rivlin, chairman of Jerusalem's Herut branch, said last night on the Mabat Sport television show that there were reports that the assailant was wearing a Betar scarf. He, along with Israel Football Association chairman Shaul Sviri, roundly condemned the stabbing, but Rivlin added that it was wrong to automatically denounce all Betar Jerusalem supporters.

Rivlin last night called on Betar fans who witnessed the attack on

Yehzekeli to report the identity of the suspected assailants.

Last April Yehzekeli, who covers the Jerusalem courts for *Yediot Aharanot* but also reports on Betar Jerusalem for the *Yediot* and *Kol Yerushalayim*, was beaten up by two Betar fans after he wrote an article criticizing Avi Cohen, one of the team's stars. Yehzekeli required hospitalization as a result of his injuries. The two men were never caught by the police.

Yesterday's attack followed Betar Jerusalem's first victory - 2-1 over Hapoel Kfar Sava - in four games this season and was the latest and most serious in a series of rumblings involving the fans of last year's league champions.

At the end of last week's defeat by Hapoel Tel Aviv, Betar Jerusalem fans tried to attack coach Mordechai Spiegler. Spiegler was rescued from their grasp and spirited out of the stadium.

## U.S. Navy blows up Iranian minelayer

MANAMA, BAHRAIN (AP). - The U.S. Navy handed over 26 Iranians and three bodies to Iranian officials in Oman yesterday, hours after blowing up their former minelayer in the central Persian Gulf according to diplomatic sources.

As the handover was carried out at an airbase in the neutral sultanate, Iran declared that the U.S. had scuttled the ship, the Iran Ajr. "to destroy evidence" that it was a merchant vessel, carrying foodstuffs, when the Americans attacked it Monday.

The Iran Ajr, a 1,266-ton land-

ing craft, was blown up by demolition charges and met its end in a large fireball, five days after it was disabled by U.S. attack helicopters while sowing mines in the Gulf.

Reacting to the scuttling, Kamal Kharrazi, head of Iran's war information headquarters, asked whether the "act of provocation" meant a declaration of war by Washington, said according to Radio Teheran: "What the Americans should make clear now is whether they have formally declared war on the Islamic Republic of Iran with this act."

Teheran Radio, monitored in

Nicosia, said Kharrazi called the sinking "a sort of piracy," and "a provocative act, a prelude to expansion of tension in the Persian Gulf."

After the attack, the Americans had fished 26 Iranians out of the water, four of them wounded. In addition to the three killed, two others were missing and presumed dead, the Pentagon has said.

Meanwhile, the official Iraqi news agency, monitored in Cyprus, said Iraqi jet fighters raided two ships in the Gulf, the Agha Jari oil field and the Ahvaz radio station in southwestern Iran. (For full report see

Page Three).

The Iran Ajr had 31 crewmen aboard. The Pentagon has said two of them are still missing following the U.S. helicopter attack.

"The biggest problem was finding water deep enough," said one military official, who asked not to be named. The waters where the ship was scuttled varies in depth from 70 to 80 meters. The Pentagon, which announced the scuttling, did not give a precise location, but said the wreck would pose no hazard to navigation.

## After Peres-Shevardnadze meeting at UN:

### Soviets to 'intensify contacts' on ME peace

By WALTER RUBY  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent  
NEW YORK. - Foreign Minister Peres and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, have agreed that it is important to move rapidly towards Middle East peace. It has been decided that the two sides will "intensify contacts" in the next few months.

Peres said that during their meeting on Wednesday, he and Shevardnadze had focused "more on the framework than on the specifics" of an international peace conference.

"For the first time, Shevardnadze was following a working paper that was quite detailed, and he was sensitive to wording," Peres said. Peres had received "no concrete assurances" that Jewish emigration would

be increased or that Jews would be permitted to fly directly to Israel, but the Soviet leader had shown "openness" on the subject and had not dismissed Peres's requests out of hand. Shevardnadze seemed unaware "that there are some problems not yet dealt with" on the issue of Jewish emigration and Jewish religious rights in the Soviet Union, and had told him that the Soviet Union "needs a little more time to think over our approaches."

When he pressed Shevardnadze for an increase in Jewish emigration and for direct flights to Israel, Shevardnadze "did not refuse those requests on the spot. He said we have to speed up negotiations and in the near future he'll let me know about progress."

Terminating the talks "the most candid and the warmest" Soviet-Israeli discussions since the rupture in rela-

tions between the two countries 20 years ago, Peres told reporters that Shevardnadze had indicated readiness for "a very positive and important change on one point." However, Peres refused to disclose what that point was. A Soviet spokesman said he was unaware of any change in previous Soviet positions.

In contrast to their meeting a year ago, when Shevardnadze spoke with Peres in a UN conference room and left through a back door to avoid reporters, this time the Soviet foreign minister received the Israeli leader at the Soviet UN mission, and after the nearly two-hour discussion, accompanied Peres outside to speak to reporters. Smiling broadly, the two ministers shook hands before the cameras.

In brief comments before ducking into a waiting limousine, Shevard-

(Continued on Back Page)

## Ties still have a long way to go

Israeli-Soviet relations this week-end moved from the anteroom into the hall; but they still have a long way to go.

This, at least, is how one senior official in Jerusalem yesterday described the state of play in the wake of Wednesday's meeting between Foreign Minister Peres and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze in New York, referring to the shift from the somewhat covert contacts to an increasingly public dialogue.

The meeting apparently produced no dramatic breakthrough in bilateral relations or in Soviet policy concerning the prospective international conference for Middle East peace. "Nothing sensational" emerged from the meeting, sources in the Prime Minister's Office were quick to point out yesterday.

But there has been "accretion," and the two countries continue to move steadily, if more slowly than Peres would like, towards re-establishment of diplomatic relations.

To begin with there is appreciation, in the Foreign Ministry at least, of the importance of appear-

### ANALYSIS Benny Morris

ances when it comes to Israeli-Soviet relations. The fact that the Soviets were agreeable to press coverage of the meeting, with Shevardnadze willing to speak outside to reporters afterwards, is regarded as a healthy sign. Peres, indeed, described the meeting as the "friendliest" and most open to date between Israeli and Soviet representatives.

Secondly, the Soviet foreign minister was explicit about his desire "to intensify" and "regularize" Israeli-Soviet contacts. He did not propose the manner in which these should be regularized or institutionalized - but perhaps a pointer in this regard was afforded by the Soviets' request 10 days ago, and Israel's agreement, to an extension by three months of the stay of the Soviet "consular" mission, which arrived in the country some two months ago. The de facto existence of a Soviet diplomatic mission here could well facilitate diplomatic contacts - though it will not

necessarily serve as the only or main conduit for exchanges.

Thirdly, there was at the meeting what Israeli officials regard as a "tone of flexibility" in Shevardnadze's statements concerning the international conference. While the Soviets, contrary to some media reports, did not agree to the PLO's exclusion from the prospective conference, they were open to the idea of the PLO's "non-presence" should this be the Palestinian people's desire. (But Shevardnadze was clear that the Soviets continue to regard the PLO as the Palestinians' sole legitimate representative - until the Palestinians decide otherwise). And the Soviets apparently explicitly ruled out a coercive role for the conference plenum in such an international gathering.

In all, Peres came away from the meeting with the feeling that Israel "could do business" with the Soviets regarding the conference.

Peres's feeling of having had an "exceptionally good" meeting with Shevardnadze was reinforced by his previous day's meeting with his Pol-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

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BUSINESS AIRS	12-24	Clear
CHICAGO	7-16	Clear
COPENHAGEN	4-16	Clear
FRANKFURT	8-17	Clear
GENEVA	8-18	Clear
HELSINKI	7-16	Cloudy
HONGKONG	22-27	Cloudy
JERUSALEM	11-23	Cloudy
LONDON	7-16	Cloudy
MADRID	17-23	Cloudy
MONTREAL	2-16	Clear
NEW YORK	9-18	Clear
OSLO	3-17	Clear
PARIS	11-18	Clear
SAO PAULO	14-27	Clear
STOCKHOLM	5-13	Clear
TOKYO	18-26	Clear
TORONTO	4-16	Clear
VIENNA	10-21	Clear
ZURICH	10-21	Clear

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### THE WEATHER

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Min-Max
Jerusalem	41	17-27	27
Golan	44	17-27	28
Nabaria	41	17-27	28
Haifa Port	58	20-28	28
Tiberias	41	20-28	28
Nazareth	51	20-28	28
Afula	44	19-31	30
Sharon	47	19-31	30
Tel Aviv	55	20-30	30
B-G Airport	46	20-29	30
Jericho	41	17-27	27
Gaza	66	21-28	28
Beersheba	66	21-28	28
Eilat	38	23-35	35

## Yosef Tabenkin Harel commander

**KIBBUTZ EIN HAROD-MEUHAD (Iim).** — Yosef Tabenkin, the commander of the Palmach-Harel Brigade which broke the siege of Jerusalem in the War of Independence, died on the eve of Rosh Hashana in his kibbutz here. He was 66.

"Yosef" Tabenkin was the son of Yitzhak Tabenkin, a contemporary of Ben-Gurion who was the founder and long-time leader of the Kibbutz Hameuhad federation and of the Ahdut Ha'avoda party. Yosef volunteered for the Palmach at its inception in 1941. In the 1948 fighting he took over command of the Harel Brigade from Yitzhak Rabin.

Following the war, he quit the army together with most of the other commanders who were affiliated with Mapai, into which Ahdut Ha'avoda had merged. He studied engineering at the Haifa Technion and spent the last few decades heading kibbutz industrial firms.

During the last 20 years he was a leading left-wing supporter of the Greater Land of Israel Movement. His funeral will be held in Ein Harod-Meuhad this afternoon at 4.

## TIES

(Continued from page one)  
ish counterpart, which also "went very well," according to a source in Jerusalem. Perhaps it will also be reinforced in the coming days by one or two Soviet gestures, such as permission for Ida Nudel to emigrate to Israel.

But Peres, upon his return to Jerusalem next week, will have to face a coalition of doubting Thomases, from the Prime Minister's Office and the senior professional echelons of the Foreign Ministry, who continue to insist that Peres is being "soft on the Russians" and that this is not the way to prod Moscow towards resurrecting Soviet-Israeli diplomatic ties. These officials, led by Prime Minister Shamir, will point to the absence of any concrete accomplishments or progress and will ask whether Peres insisted on Soviet "reciprocity," by allowing an Israeli consular or diplomatic delegation to visit Russia and, if not, or if Shevardnadze said "no," why not?

## DEMOLISHED

(Continued from page one)  
Tabor local council, yesterday called for converting the Wadi Ara road, which links Hadera and Afula to the Golan junction, into a four-lane highway.

He maintained that encouraging more motorists to use the road would decrease the risk of terrorism. Goldman made a similar call several weeks ago after stones were thrown at a bus travelling along the Wadi Ara road near Umm el-Fahm.

According to police, Arad had been on his way home from a nearby army base to spend the New Year holiday with his wife and children on the kibbutz.

He had apparently been given a lift from the base to the Megiddo junction early in the morning. At around 7 a.m., while he was waiting at a hitch-hiking post close to the crossroads, he was attacked and stabbed in the chest. Despite his injuries, he apparently tried to reach a nearby telephone to call for help, but collapsed.

He was spotted by a passing driver who took him to the Afula hospital where he was pronounced dead.  
The attacker, who stole Arad's Uzi sub-machine-gun, fled on foot. Another passer-by raised the alarm and alerted Border Policemen, who were on duty nearby at a checkpoint along the road leading to Jenin. It was their swift action which was credited with the suspect's capture.

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

### Steps to counter inflation

## Bruno urges big cut in budget, freeze on wages

By AVI TEMKIN  
Post Economic Reporter

The inflation rate in the coming year must be halved by cutting hundreds of millions of shekels from the state budget and by freezing real wages in the business sector, the governor of the Bank of Israel, Michael Bruno, said yesterday. He said it would be impossible to maintain the present rate of inflation. "Either it will be reduced, or it will go up again."

Bruno has recently been urging the Treasury to adopt a plan that will lead to a single-digit inflation rate. But Finance Minister Moshe Nissim has already indicated that he does not think such a reduction is possible. Both Bruno and Nissim left yesterday for Washington where they will participate in the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

Bruno's remarks included an implicit criticism of the Treasury's refusal to tackle the inflation issue. He said that staying at the current rate of inflation would bring economic policy to a standstill. Such a standstill would result in a retreat from

the achievements of the economic plan, he said.

The 5 per cent increment granted to public sector workers was justified, Bruno said, given the erosion in their salaries. But he said no increments should be allowed in the business sector. Pay hikes should be granted only by those firms that are profitable and can pay them. Other firms should not expect the government to compensate them if they pay wage increases above their capabilities, he said.

Bruno urged the government to cut the budget by hundreds of millions of shekels to prevent an increase in the deficit. Given government commitments, especially those relating to the social services, the budget will automatically increase if it is not slashed.

Cutting the budget is possible even in an election year, he said. He added that Nissim has already showed on several occasions that "in his eyes the economic wellbeing of the country is more important than giving in to the demands of this or that group."

## Last-minute hitches prevent signing of wage agreement

By JEFF BLACK  
For The Jerusalem Post

The Histadrut and the Treasury failed to sign the public sector wage agreement as expected on the eve of Rosh Hashana because of internal conflicts within the labour federation.

Following announcements by the professional unions—the engineers, academics and technicians—that they would not sign the agreement as it was reached in negotiations last week, Histadrut trade union department head Haim Haberfeld attempted in late night talks last Tuesday to incorporate a number of their demands into the accord.

These included raising the seniority pay ceiling from 30 to 32 years, scrapping the two lowest salary grades in the professional wage scale and reducing the number of weekly work hours.

But the Treasury rejected these demands. Even though the two sides' lawyers had initiated the rest of the agreement—which grants an across-the-board NIS75 pay rise to all public sector employees—Wednesday's expected signing ceremony was cancelled.

The Treasury emphasized last night that all the clauses in the agreement had been concluded and said there was no point in delaying

the signing. The Histadrut's latest demands were not part of the agreement, were never part of it and there was no point in starting negotiations on them now, the Treasury spokesman said.

Senior union leaders last night described the Histadrut's three demands as a "fine-tuning" of the agreement, but admitted the Treasury was unlikely to agree to any reduction in weekly work hours.

They admitted the demands were raised only after the professional unions had demanded immediate separate negotiations with the Treasury.

The unions objected to the exclusion of workers at government-owned corporations from the agreement. They are also angry at Haberfeld's failure to obtain the Treasury's agreement to a reduction in weekly work hours. To emphasize this point, these unions have declared a drive to have their members work only a 42-hour week in government corporations.

So far, no date has been scheduled for renewed formal negotiations between the Histadrut and the Treasury, although Haberfeld and Hillel Duda'i, the Treasury's chief wage negotiator, were in contact last night.

## Parties clash over 'peace delegation'

By MENACHEM SHALEV  
Post Political Reporter

The Likud's Knesset caucus last night called on Prime Minister Shamir to cancel the departure of a Foreign Ministry information delegation, which the Likud claims, intends to rally support for an international conference on Middle East peace.

MK Haim Kaufman said that "the departure of the delegation, which includes members of the Labour Party's Central Committee, under the guise of a state-sponsored delegation, makes a mockery of the cabinet decision against an international conference."

But Foreign Ministry Information Division head Colette Avital, who organized the *hasbara* mission, said last night that the mission (which

she said, could hardly be called a "delegation") included many Likud members.

Avital said that the speakers, who had been asked to talk to audiences abroad about Israel's 40-year search for peace, had been picked in consultation with Prime Minister Shamir's media adviser, Avi Pazner.

Avital said the Foreign Ministry did not intend to emphasize internal differences over the international conference, which, she said, would only damage Israel's image abroad.

The Likud is particularly angry about the participation in the mission of Arye Naor, who was expelled from Herut for joining Foreign Minister Peres's efforts to promote the international conference.

## Professor won't be deterred by attack on him

By JOEL GREENBERG  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bir Zeit University Professor Sari Nusseibeh says he will continue to pursue contacts with Israelis to promote dialogue between Israel and the PLO, despite the assault on him last week at the campus.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Nusseibeh said he would seek more solid commitments from the Israeli side in future discussions, to avoid the flurry of denials that followed the revelations of his meetings with Herut Central Committee member Moshe Amirav. Nusseibeh had been joined in the meetings by Arab Studies Society head Faisal Hussein, and by Salah Zuheikhe, an editor of the *Ash-Sha'ab* newspaper.

Nusseibeh, his head bandaged and his arm in a sling, said the talks between Likud members and PLO backers should serve as a signal to the Labour Party. "My main message to the Labour Party is: Recognize the fact that there has been contact between the Likud and the PLO; it has been legitimized, and this makes it possible for you to hold contacts with the PLO and include it

in your framework of an international conference."

He said similar talks in future should be seen as "a matter of objective reality. As long as there is a conflict, there will be a need for contacts between the two sides aimed at arriving at an equitable settlement."

"It is my duty to continue to extend my hand for peace. It's something we can't afford not to do... Palestinians don't have a choice."

Nusseibeh continued to come under fire from radicals at Bir Zeit University, even as he was recuperating from the beating he received Monday. The university workers' union published a statement Wednesday attacking Nusseibeh for his meetings with Likud members and indicating he had brought the beating upon himself by overstepping the Palestinian consensus. The union is said to be controlled by supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Nusseibeh was expelled from the union after he met Foreign Minister Peres earlier this year.

Nusseibeh said the otherwise broad condemnation of the beating



Sylvester Stallone, in Israel making a new Rambo, kept out of the public eye for the first few weeks after his arrival. But this all changed during Rosh Hashana, when he appeared on the Tel Aviv beachfront with his bodyguards and surrounded by fans. (AFP)

## Egyptian foreign minister gets 'pleasant surprise' in U.S.

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Meguid has warmly welcomed the latest policy issued by the American Jewish Congress supporting the convening of an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He called the AJC statement "a very pleasant surprise" and "very encouraging."

Meguid, who is in the U.S. to attend the opening of the UN General Assembly, was speaking last week at a forum sponsored by the Brookings Institute, a prestigious Washington "think tank." For over 90 minutes, he candidly discussed Egypt's policy towards Israel and the peace process. About 100 American and foreign diplomats, scholars, journalists and Middle East specialists were in the audience as well as several representatives from the Israeli and Arab embassies in Washington.

Meguid said he had been very pleased to read about the AJC decision on the front page of *The New York Times* (The AJC basically endorsed the position of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the Labour Party in favour of a restricted conference which would lead soon to direct Arab-Israeli negotiations.)

The Egyptian minister, who visited Israel in July for three days of talks with Prime Minister Shamir, Peres and other leading Israelis, was cautious but hopeful in assessing the prospects of an international conference being held. He acknowledged that there was a deadlock because of the split between Shamir and Peres within the Israeli government.

"We still have a long way to go," said Meguid, but the attitudes taken by Peres, and now by an important mainstream American Jewish organization, were very encouraging.

"While I was in Israel, I saw that things are moving. I don't say they are moving fast enough but I am beginning to see an acceptance of certain ideas that were taboo a few years ago."

To back up his point, Meguid recalled that while in Israel he had read in *The Jerusalem Post* the text of a speech made by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington. Rabin, too, had called for a stepped-up effort to promote peace. "I was pleased to hear it," Meguid said. "It showed the urgency of the time factor."

Meguid urged patience in trying to bridge existing procedural and substantive differences. "We in Egypt are patient," he said.

He called the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty "one of the main achievements" of the overall peace process. "This peace is here to stay," he said. "There is no way out. We know what war means. Many people in our country have suffered."

Meguid said he was encouraged by the fact that many in the Arab world who had originally condemned his government's peace policies toward Israel now agreed that Egypt was on the right track. "They are also looking for peace now."

He described current Israeli-Egyptian relations as "good... We consider this a normal relationship." Differences between the two countries remained, but this was by no means unusual. However, the bilateral arrangement between

Israel and Egypt was "not enough." Meguid urged the U.S. to take a more active role in finding a solution to the Palestinian question. "We hope the U.S. effort will continue and bring some results." The exact "ways and means" should be left to Washington.

While endorsing the principle of direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours — "after all, we negotiated directly with Israel" — Meguid noted that there was "no way" that Jordan could embark on such a strategy without first having the "umbrella" of an international conference.

Meguid repeatedly praised Peres for accepting the idea of an international conference as early as September 1986 during a summit meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. At that time, Peres was still prime minister. "We appreciated his response," he said of Peres.

Since then, "things have been moving," although "slowly." Like Peres, Meguid insisted that the international participants at any conference, including the Soviet Union, should not be authorized to impose a settlement "or agree to any agreement." They should simply allow the parties to discuss the issues themselves.

The U.S. and Egypt had joined Peres in accepting these restrictions on an international conference. "There is a consensus."

Egypt would like to see Israel come up with a "unified position" on the issue.

In this regard, Egypt would welcome a more active U.S. involvement in promoting the peace process.

## Doctors to continue sanctions today

By JUDY SIEGEL  
Post Science and Health Reporter

Beilinson Hospital in Petah Tikva and Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot will follow a reduced Shabbat schedule today, as its doctors protest against what they claim is Kupat Holim Clalit's "footdragging" in negotiations over a shorter work week and a second shift in operating rooms.

The sanctions mean no operations except for emergencies, no day hospitals and no outpatient clinics. The sanctions will move to Carmel Hospital in Haifa and the Ben-Zvi Hospital in Beersheba and Haemek Hospital in Afula.

On Wednesday, the Meir Hospital of Kupat Holim in Kfar Sava and the various Kupat Holim psychiatric hospitals will have their turn for the physicians' sanctions. Hasharon Hospital and the geriatric hospitals of the Histadrut health fund will observe a Sabbath schedule on Thursday. Dr. Haim Solan, head of the doctors' works committee, told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that the sanctions threat was open-ended and that he couldn't say when they would end.

The Kupat Holim spokesman, David Tugar, called the doctors' claims "absurd," adding that the health fund management made "supreme efforts" to get operating theatres in the hospitals running in the afternoons. "We have negotiated with the doctors for a long period in order to have surgery in the afternoons and shorten the queue for surgery, but the doctors apparently want to squeeze us for additional and absurd salary benefits," claimed the health fund spokesman.

The doctors, however, who posted signs in the hospitals to explain their position to the public, claim that Kupat Holim is running the hospitals inefficiently. The Kupat Holim doctors applied sanctions some two months ago on this same issue.

## Suspects freed in attack on teenagers

By JONATHAN KARP  
TEL AVIV. — The police have released all suspects arrested in last Tuesday's attack on two Ramat Hasharon teenagers, but they are still investigating the incident, a police spokesman said last night.

The spokesman noted that the police had found no evidence to connect the Arab suspects with the incident.

Last Tuesday evening Yaniv Levy and Roti Horowitz, both 14-year-olds, were confronted by two Arabs as they were walking through a grove between Ramat Hasharon and Herzliya. The Arabs asked for Horowitz's watch and as the youth handed it over, the Arabs began to attack the boys with knives.

## All civil servants get Succot holiday

TEL AVIV (Iim). — Civil servants in all government offices and agencies will take six days of leave during the Succot holiday under an arrangement concluded between the Civil Service Directorate and the Civil Servants' Union.

The civil servants will have only four days of leave deducted. In government agencies that perform essential duties, emergency rosters will be worked out between the works committee and the specific agency directorate.

To Shmuel and Aviva Bar-Am  
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**FORTUNÉE COHEN**

Deeply mourned by  
her husband, Philip  
son, Ronnie, and wife, Lillian  
daughters, Louise and Hadassa  
brother, Maurice Setton  
grandchildren, Guy, Gil, Gabriella, Alon,  
Michelle, Eytan and Ruthie

The funeral will take place today, Sunday, September 27, at the Sanhedria Cemetery, Jerusalem, at 2.30 p.m.

The unveiling of the tombstone of our dear

**MAX SPITZ R.I.P.**

will take place on the *shloshim*, Monday, September 28, 1987 at 4 p.m. at the Holon cemetery.

Family and friends will gather at the main gate at the above hour.

The Family

## Veil lifted on secret wars of CIA

By WOLF BLITZER  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — While he was director of the Central Intelligence Agency, William Casey circumvented normal CIA channels and personally arranged for the Saudi Arabian intelligence service to undertake a covert assassination attempt that went awry, killing 80 innocent people when a car bomb exploded in a Beirut suburb on March 8, 1985.

This is disclosed in a new book on Casey's tenure at the CIA by Bob Woodward, assistant managing editor of *The Washington Post*. Excerpts from the book, entitled *VEL: The Secret Wars of the CIA, 1981-1987*, were published yesterday in *The Washington Post*. Vel was the code name for the CIA's covert action "compartment" in the Reagan Administration.

According to the excerpt, Casey

arranged through Saudi King Fahd and his ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, to have Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, the leader of the Hizbullah Shi'ites in Lebanon, assassinated. The Hizbullah was believed to have been responsible for the bombings of the U.S. Marine headquarters and the American embassy in Beirut.

"When the assassination attempt went awry, the Saudis — with Casey's blessing — persuaded Fadlallah to stop the car bombings of American and other Western targets in Beirut by bribing him with \$2 million in food, university scholarships for his followers and other goods."

Casey was "astounded" that "such a comparatively small amount of money could solve so giant a problem," according to Woodward.

The 511-page book, published by Simon and Schuster, is based in large measure on Woodward's 48 inter-

views and substantive discussions with Casey, who died on May 6.

At their last conversation at the Georgetown University Hospital after Casey had undergone surgery for the brain tumour that led to his death, Woodward asked whether he had known of the diversion of profits from the Iran arms sales to the Contras in Nicaragua.

Casey nodded affirmatively. Woodward then asked Casey "Why?"

"I believed," he replied. Then he fell asleep.

Herbert Cohen  
We are with you in your profound grief on the untimely loss of

**MARCEL** מר

Mark Families



After London arms office closed:

## Iran bans UK trade

By DAVID HOROVITZ  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent  
LONDON. — Iran is severing all trade links with Britain following the Thatcher government's decision this week to close down Iran's London arms procurement centre, through which Teheran had been conducting 80 per cent of its international arms purchasing.

Britain had a £300 million balance of trade surplus with Iran last year, and that favourable figure is understood to have been one of the main factors behind Thatcher's decision to tolerate the arms procurement office for so long in spite of increasingly vocal opposition from Labour and Liberal MPs.

According to reports published here in the past few days, the 30 top staff at the procurement centre had been expecting the closure order for some time, and a new purchasing office has already been set up in Hamburg.

It is feared, however, that some Iranian officials will continue to run arms deals from Britain, although rather more discreetly than had been their wont.

The Victoria Street procurement centre had been under continuous

MIS and Special Branch observation for the past six years, and customs officers were tipped off when British companies broke export restrictions and attempted to ship "offensive" weaponry to the war zone. Up to 50 companies are believed to be under customs investigation as a result.

With the closure of the office, arms deal monitoring will be considerably more complex for the security services; but the perception here is that most Iranian buying will be conducted abroad from now on.

Apart from the Hamburg centre, Iran is reported to have organized a procurement network taking in Amsterdam, Geneva and Vienna.

Officials at the London centre, which is estimated to have handled deals worth £4 billion a year, have been given until October 8 to leave Britain.

The office was ordered to close by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, speaking to the UN General Assembly in New York. The decision followed an Iranian speedboat attack on the British tanker *Gentle Breeze* in the Gulf on Monday, which left one man dead and several wounded.

## Iraqi planes hit 2 Iranian ships

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — Iraqi warplanes yesterday raided two naval targets, setting one Iranian tanker ablaze, plus an oilfield and a radio station, daily war bulletins issued here said.

An Iraqi military spokesman said the jets had hit two naval targets since Friday night and Gulf shipping sources said an Iranian shuttle tanker was ablaze in the northern Gulf.

They said the vessel was apparently heading in ballast to load oil at Iran's Kharg Island terminal when it was hit shortly after midnight Friday.

There were no further details of the attack and no independent con-

firmation of the later Iraqi raid at 6 a.m. yesterday.

Iraq has now reported hitting 26 vessels in the last four weeks since it ended an unofficial 46-day moratorium on shipping attacks.

A Baghdad military communiqué said Iraq's warplanes also made a "destructive" raid on Agha Jari oil fields, 60 km east of Iran's gulf port of Bandar Khomeini.

Others attacked Ahvaz radio station, setting it ablaze.

The latest raids coincided with U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger's visit to American warships in the Gulf.

## Le Pen calls off Blackpool visit

By DAVID HOROVITZ  
Jerusalem Post Correspondent  
LONDON. — Claiming that he did not wish to embarrass Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher by turning up unwanted to her party conference next month, French National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen has cancelled his proposed visit to Blackpool.

Announcing this decision in London last week, Sir Alfred Sherman — who issued the invitation to the French presidential contender — said that Le Pen had been the victim of "media hysteria."

"The atmosphere which has been created will ensure that Mr. Le Pen has no chance of receiving a fair hearing consistent with an open society," said Sherman.

Although top Conservatives — including party chairman Norman Tebbit — had been pressing Sherman to call off the visit, the decision to cancel appears to have been Le Pen's alone.

## Chirac inaugurates new Cairo subway

PARIS. — Prime Minister Jacques Chirac flew to Cairo yesterday to inaugurate the first phase of a new underground railway in the Egyptian capital with President Hosni Mubarak.

The underground, to be inaugurated today, was designed by Sofreha, a subsidiary of the Paris public transport utility, and built by 17 French and two Egyptian companies.

## U.S. money for Egyptian M-1 tank

LONDON (Itm). — The U.S. government has approved an Egyptian request to use \$168 million of its American military aid for 1988 to develop an Egyptian version of the M-1 tank, the Saudi newspaper *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* has reported.

Citing Egyptian sources, the paper said that Egypt has invited a delegation of senior employees from General Dynamics Corp., which makes the tank, to visit the factory which is under construction north of Cairo. Egypt plans to produce between 1,000 and 1,500 tanks a year.

## Palestinian film wins San Sebastian prize

SAN SEBASTIAN (Reuters) — A Palestinian film was awarded top prize yesterday at an international film festival held annually in this Basque seaside resort.

"Noies en Galilee" (Wedding in Galilee), directed by Michel Khleifi, carried off the top Critics' Prize.

## Saudis sign \$500m. Brazil missile deal

Jerusalem Post Staff  
Saudi Arabia has signed a \$500 million deal with Brazil for the purchase of missile batteries to be used against low-flying planes, a Syrian newspaper reports from London.

The deal, the first of its kind between the two countries, was concluded in July but kept secret until now.



Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka, leader of Friday's army coup in Fiji, the second since May. (APF)

## Fiji calm after second army coup

SUVA, Fiji (AP). — Armed troops patrolled the quiet streets of Suva yesterday as most stores were closed after the second military coup in five months in the racially-divided South Pacific island nation.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported that some communications, cut when troops seized control Friday, had been restored.

ABC said roadblocks had been set up on the island's main highway, but the open-air Suva market operated as usual. An 8 p.m.-to-5 a.m. curfew has been set by the coup leader, military strongman Sitiveni Rabuka, and most of the country's media have been shut down.

There were no reports of injuries in the nation of 300 islands, about 3,200 kilometres northeast of Sydney, Australia.

Australian Associated Press reported that the army had released one of two judges who were among a number of prominent Fijians arrested late Friday when Rabuka, the head of the army, staged the coup, his second since May 14.

Justice Michael Rooney said he was arrested at his home, held for four hours without being ques-

tioned, then released. Rooney said that while in custody he met former prime minister Timoci Bavadra, whose Indian-dominated coalition government was overthrown in the May coup.

Also in custody were former foreign minister Krishna Datt, trade minister Navin Maharaj, labour and immigration minister Joeli Kalau, trade union congress secretary James Raman and Suva mayor Bob Kumar, the judge told AAP.

According to the AAP report, Bavadra was arrested after troops ransacked his home. It said more than 50 soldiers went to Bavadra's home, fired shots in the ceiling and terrorized Bavadra's wife and nine children, but that nobody was injured.

In a nationwide broadcast Friday after he seized executive power from an interim council of ministers, Rabuka said he intended to take immediate steps to amend the constitution to ensure the rights of ethnic Fijians.

In his first grab for power in May, Rabuka said he wanted the constitution changed to protect the political power of the ethnic Fijians, who comprise 47 per cent of the coun-

try's 715,000 people.

The Indian community, brought in during British rule as sugar plantation workers, make up 49 per cent. The rest of the population includes Europeans, Chinese and others.

Bavadra, who was elected prime minister in early May, had named a cabinet dominated by Indians, prompting Rabuka's takeover later that month. It was the first coup ever in the South Pacific.

Friday's coup by Rabuka apparently occurred because of his dissatisfaction with the slow pace of constitutional reform to guarantee the rights of ethnic Fijians.

During the past week, ethnic Fijian youths smashed and looted Indian-owned shops in Suva.

The British Commonwealth Secretary-General, Sir Shridath Ramphal, also condemned the coup and said it undercut a successful solution to Fiji's ethnic strife. Fiji is a member of the Commonwealth, which groups Britain and its former colonies.

In New Zealand, Prime Minister David Lange yesterday called for the immediate release of political detainees arrested in the coup.

## Bush heralds Polish thaw

WARSAW (Reuters). — U.S. Vice-President George Bush arrived in Poland yesterday with a message of goodwill at the start of a visit marking a thaw in U.S. — Polish relations chilled by the suppression of the Solidarity Free Trade Union.

Bush, the most senior U.S. official to visit Poland since Jimmy Carter came here as president in 1977, said on arrival that the U.S. sought to help Warsaw bring about national accord but would not interfere in its affairs.

Later he had a brief initial meeting with Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski. Few details emerged but the official Polish news agency PAP said their exchange took place in a "matter-of-fact, constructive climate."

Bush told reporters on his arrival that he would explore ways of moving U.S.-Polish relations forward. "With good will on both sides, I believe we can make genuine progress... We are realistic about Poland's position, yet hopeful about future prospects," he said.

"Our intention is not to disrupt or divide, nor is it to interfere. We seek only to play a constructive role in

bringing about the national reconciliation that everyone in Poland desires," he added.

Bush, whose visit marks a normalization of U.S. — Polish relations after a period of estrangement following the imposition of martial law in 1981, will have full talks with Jaruzelski today.

He is also due to meet former Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and other key opposition figures today. Front-page reports were uncharacteristically brief and without photographs. One Western diplomat said this reflected "a wait and see attitude" to the visit.

PAP commented: "Six years of artificiality in downgrading Polish-American relations in level, scope and intensity have come to an end." The Warsaw daily *Zycie Warszawy* said economic cooperation would be a sign of the effectiveness of intensified dialogue.

Poland, crippled by a foreign debt of \$35 billion, has blamed the U.S. for contributing to its economic crisis with the sanctions it imposed in response to the crushing of Solidarity.

## MANILA PAPERS REPORT:

## Soldiers said protecting fugitive coup leader

MANILA (AP). — The leader of last month's coup attempt has been seen moving in and out of Manila but cannot be arrested because members of the armed forces are protecting him, three Manila newspapers reported yesterday.

The press reports about the fugitive coup leader quoted Brig.-Gen. Ramon Montano, Manila area military commander, as saying Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, was being funded by unidentified businessmen and was planning another attempt to overthrow President Corason Aquino.

It was the first time a senior military official had admitted that soldiers ostensibly loyal to Aquino were protecting Honasan. Gen. Fidel Ramos has accused Honasan of plotting at least five coup attempts before the failed August 28 mutiny.

At least 53 people were killed and hundreds wounded in that attempt, which plunged the government into its deepest crisis since Aquino assumed power in February, 1986 in a military-civilian uprising that sent

President Ferdinand Marcos into exile in Hawaii.

The coup also forced a cabinet revamp and emboldened Communist rebels to increase attacks in the countryside.

Several officials and newspapers have accused the military of not carrying out an earnest hunt for Honasan despite orders issued by Ramos for his arrest and court-martial.

Montano was quoted as saying his command was closely watching several places in the capital and the adjoining provinces of Laguna and Cavite, where Honasan was sighted several times recently, but that his troops were finding it difficult to capture the 41-year-old colonel.

Meanwhile, government troops overran a Communist rebel camp yesterday in a military offensive against New People's Army guerrillas whose recent attacks have threatened to isolate the Bicol region in southeastern Luzon, the military said.

Brig.-Gen. Luis San Andres, the area's military commander, said a

sketchy field report he received indicated that at least nine rebels may have been killed in the fighting but it gave no other details.

"While our troops were not able to recover any bodies, they did recover nine firearms," San Andres said in a telephone interview from his regional headquarters in Legazpi, 344 kmsoutheast of Manila.

He said he did not as yet know the precise location of the camp, but it was somewhere in Camarines Sur province, 48 km to the northwest of Legazpi. Rebels blew up three major rail and highway bridges in the province during the past two weeks and destroyed a fourth bridge in Sorsogon province farther south.

San Andres said he had not received any reports of fresh fighting elsewhere in the region, where armed forces chief Gen. Fidel Ramos ordered the deployment of more troops last week.

The situation is critical, but we are still in control, I believe," San Andres said.

## Soviets prepare to celebrate 30 years of space superiority

MOSCOW (AP). — The Soviet Union plans two more space milestones this week before observing the 30th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik, the satellite that was the starting shot in the race for space.

The Soviets plan to launch a craft carrying two monkeys to research space sickness before Sputnik's October 4 anniversary.

Cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko, who rocketed into space February 6, is poised to break the space endurance record of 237 days.

On October 4, 1957, Soviet scientists propelled the 83-kilogram Sputnik into orbit 900 kilometres above the Earth, opening the quest for the Cosmos.

Americans, shocked by the Soviets' apparent superiority in science and technology, could only stand and watch the glimmering steel globe that crossed the sky every 96.2 minutes.

The Soviets followed their initial feat with a series of firsts — an even more impressive launch a month later, the first manned mission in 1961, the first woman in space, and the first manned orbiting space station.

The accomplishments have accumulated regularly over the past three decades, and following recent U.S. failures in rocket launches and the space shuttle Challenger, the Soviets appear to have solidified their position as the premier space power.

Satellites today play a vital role in society, from telephone communications to tracking ships at sea.

"The first artificial satellite was an important event, not just for our country but for the whole world," Oleg Gazenko, head of the Academy of Sciences Physiology Department, said in an interview last week. Gazenko is a prominent researcher

into the effects of space travel.

The Soviets plan to mark Sputnik's 30th birthday with an international forum that will include delegations from the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the European Space Agency.

In the years ahead, the Soviets plan an ambitious programme of space exploration, including what will likely be the first colony in space.

By the year 2000, "we will without a doubt have several orbital space stations," said Gazenko, who has been involved in manned missions since their inception. "I believe the major direction will be exploration and utilization of space and the first attempt at colonization of the moon or Mars."

Space colonies will be possible if they can produce their own water, oxygen and food, Gazenko said.

Experiments aboard the Soviet orbital stations have showed water and air can be regenerated through solar power, but today's cosmonauts are able to produce only about 15 per cent of their food, he said.

The Soviets plan two probes next July to orbit Mars and release two mobile descent vehicles to collect photographs and information about the planet.

Commercial space ventures were previously almost exclusively American. But the January 1986 accident that destroyed Challenger and killed its seven astronauts slowed the U.S. space programme to a crawl.

Soviet officials have offered to fill that gap in commercial services. Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov in January promoted the Soviet launching service and tried to allay fears that the Kremlin would pilfer western technology from the satellites.

Ryzhkov told the Tass news agency that commercial clients would be allowed to ship their payloads into the Soviet Union in sealed containers and oversee their installation on Soviet rockets.

The Soviet Union has tested a model of a reusable spacecraft, similar to the U.S. space shuttle, but little has been disclosed about the project apparently designed primarily for military use.

Soviet manned flights have been progressively lengthened, and officials say six-month stays in space will become the norm.

Romanenko, 42, is set to surpass the 237-day space endurance record on Wednesday. Three other Soviet spacemen — Leonid Kizim, Vladimir Solovov and Oleg Atkov — set the previous mark in 1984.

Romanenko and fellow cosmonaut Alexander Laveikin blasted into space February 6 and began an elaborate series of experiments aboard the Mir space station, the Soviets' second orbital platform that was launched 19 months ago. Laveikin, however, showed signs of heart trouble and was replaced by Alexander Alexandrov in late July.

There has been no announcement by Soviet officials of when Romanenko and Alexandrov will return to Earth.



A monkey is harnessed inside a simulator at Moscow's Medico-Biological Problems Institute. The animal will possibly be flown aboard the next biological space research satellite, to be launched later this month. (AFP)

Yevgeny Ilyin, project director for the 14-day primate mission to begin tomorrow or Tuesday, said the launch of the monkeys is the eighth in a series aimed at testing the effects of weightlessness on life forms.

Space sickness is the biggest problem faced by cosmonauts, and researchers still know little about its causes or potential cures, Ilyin said.

The Cosmos space vehicle also

will be carrying 10 white rats, insects, and organisms as small as paramecia.

Fifteen sensors have been implanted in the heads of the monkeys to detect changes in electrical impulses during the initial stage of adaptation to weightlessness, Ilyin said. The craft also is equipped with monitors that can relay information about the cellular metabolism of the other life forms on board.

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Aharon Levran, Zeev Eytan  
Edited by Aharon Levran

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# Decline and fall of the Shiff empire

By GREER FAY CASHMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The empire of feisty hotel czar Haim Shiff is crumbling. Though still at the helm of the largest privately owned hotel chain in the country, Shiff is no longer the master of all he surveys.

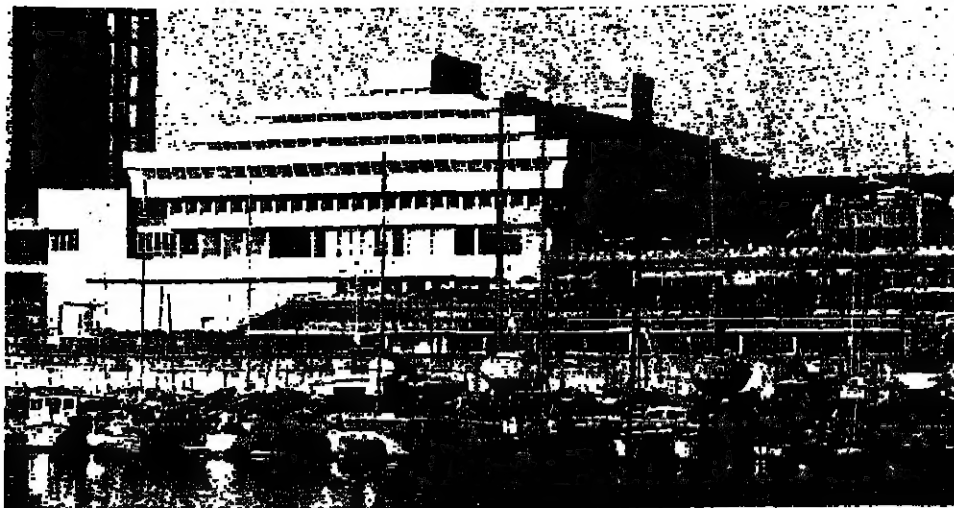
In recent months he has had to let go of three of his holdings to partially offset multi-million dollar debts to his creditors — chiefly Bank Leumi. The sales brought in a little over \$23 million — far less, Shiff asserts, than the properties were worth. But he was in no position to hold out for more. He had a hollow victory with the most recent sale, the Jerusalem Gardens Hotel, where through Tel Aviv District Court intervention, he succeeded in boosting the sale price from \$5.6m. to \$8.1m. The building had been in receivership and the receiver had unwittingly signed an agreement with the owners of the Ramada Renaissance Hotel.

Shiff was livid. Taking into account the money he had sunk into the still uncompleted construction he wasn't ready to accept a paltry \$5.6m. He appealed to the court to invalidate the agreement. The judge, after sleeping on the case, turned his courtroom into an auction house, and the Ramada Renaissance owners were the highest bidders. But they had to part with \$2.5m. more than they had originally estimated.

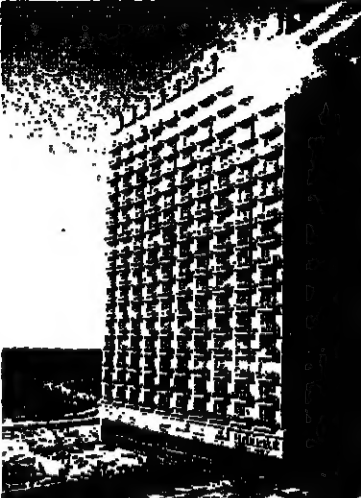
The next Shiff property to go will probably be the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem, which created controversy in its time because there was some dispute over whether or not Shiff, when building, had overstepped the mark into Jordanian territory. The hotel dining room certainly collected its fair share of Jordanian bullets, and Shiff himself narrowly escaped a shooting once.

Shiff has been asking for \$22m. for the 600-room facility — but no one has been willing to meet that figure, although the property is worth considerably in excess of that even in its present state of neglect. Of late, Shiff has narrowed down the field of negotiations to two potential buyers: one a hotel group from the U.S., the other from South Africa. The contract is due to be signed any day now, and the gap between what the seller is asking for and the buyers are offering, is not all that great. The deal is expected to close at around \$18.5m. The price is for the building only and not for the surrounding land, for which Shiff is demanding a further \$10m.

This year, Shiff was to have celebrated his 40th anniversary as an



The Marina T.A.: \$7.5 million



The Diplomat T.A.: \$25 million



The Diplomat J'm: \$18.5 million



The President: \$10 million

THE GREAT SELL-OFF

Interestingly, Shiff's bankers are more sanguine about his prospects than the hotelier himself. The ongoing recovery of the real estate market could yet save him from having to sell all of his hotels, banking sources say, pointing out that the most recent sales have brought in more than expected. But these sources are critical of his past. They say that if Shiff had heeded their advice several years ago and sold a small part of his empire to raise cash at the onset of the recession, he would never have got into such deep trouble.

"It was regular interest that ate him up, because he was completely illiquid," one source says. "Had he got some cash then, he would have kept the bulk of his chain and other assets. But he was very stubborn and wouldn't listen to our pleadings."

hotelier, but the festivities have turned sour. Instead of going ahead with a long-term expansion programme, Shiff has had to tighten his belt. His staff has been reduced from 2,000 to 1,400, and more will be sacked as remaining properties are sold. The only hotel not for sale is the 140-room Ariel in Jerusalem in which Shiff is a partner and not the sole proprietor.

The price-tags he has attached on his assets include:

- \$3m. for the Orgil Hotel and cinema in downtown Jerusalem;
- \$10m. for his flagship hotel, the President in Jerusalem;
- \$8.5m. for the 300-room Marina Bat Yam;
- \$7.5m. for the 180-room Marina Tel Aviv; and
- \$25m. for the 320-room Diplo-

## MIDDLE EAST ECONOMY/Abdel Jalil Mustafa

### Gulf economies due for a turnaround

A leading Kuwaiti commercial bank has put the combined oil revenues of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states at \$32 billion in 1986, just half of their level in 1984. But it says a partial recovery to \$37b. is expected for 1987.

"The vagaries of the world energy market have made of 1986 a particularly uncertain year for Gulf economies," according to the *Periodical Economic Bulletin* of the National Bank of Kuwait, released last week.

The GCC is a six-year-old economic and security alliance that groups Saudi Arabia, the world's largest net exporter of crude oil, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman. The first four are ranking of the 13-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, whose heyday was in the 1970s when oil prices spiraled.

The six countries have seen their oil revenues, the backbone of their economies, slipping as the oil market began to weaken in the early 1980s by a glut on the world oil market. Prices plummeted to a record low early 1986 but an Opec's efforts to curtail output late in the year combined with the spot market worries about the progress of the Gulf war has helped improve the prices.

"The oil boom, which fueled a decade of frantic growth in the Gulf

economies, has now come to a sudden halt," the bank says. "The slowdown, stemming principally from structural constraints such as low absorption capacity and near-completion of infrastructure, was compounded by such conjunctural factors as the lingering Iraq-Iran war and the collapse of Kuwait's parallel stock market in 1982."

The protracted Gulf war, entering its eighth year, has helped dampen the economies of the region, and Kuwait's souk al-manakh crashed in 1982 under the weight of 94 billion dollars of post-dated checks.

The NBK, Kuwait's largest commercial bank, says the collapse of the GCC states will continue to run the budget deficits that started in 1983 for another two years and fall back on their reserves to cushion their balance of payments.

The NBK's study predicts that the GCC states will continue to run the budget deficits that started in 1983 for another two years and fall back on their reserves to cushion their balance of payments.

After Bahrain and Oman, which started recently to issue Treasury bills, Kuwait is currently considering a domestic public-debt programme. "It is worth mentioning that the Sultanate of Oman has already tapped the Euromarkets and that the UAE government is borrowing directly from local banks," the report says. "In contrast, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have no plans to tap the resources of their domestic markets." (Reuters)

### Arkia, Egged holiday packages

Israelis are facing south these High Holidays, at least when it comes to their vacation plans. And travel companies are planning special services to meet the heavy demand for Eilat.

Arkia today will operate its "air railway," supplementing their fleet of Dash 7 aircraft with 189-seat Boeing 707s on the Tel Aviv-Eilat route. The carrier is expected to serve 3,000 passengers, or twice its

usual capacity, a spokesman said. Soldiers travelling today from Eilat to Tel Aviv will be able to fly for free, space allowing.

Egged, too, is gearing up for the trek to Eilat. The cooperative's spokesman, Gideon Talmor, said demand will peak during Succot, with an expected 100 Egged bus trips daily. About 80 of those lines will operate overnight.

### SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	September 18, 1987	BANK OF ISRAEL Representative Rates
CURRENCY BASKET			1.5783
U.S.A.	DOLLAR		1.5030
GERMANY	MARK		0.8778
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING		2.6254
FRANCE	FRANC		0.2632
JAPAN	YEN	100	1.1109
HOLLAND	FLORIN		0.7800
SWITZERLAND	FRANC		1.0598
SWEDEN	KRONA		0.2500
NORWAY	KRONE		0.2401
DENMARK	KRONE		0.2294
FINLAND	MARKKA		0.2633
CANADA	DOLLAR		1.2162
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR		1.1691
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND		0.7788
BEELGIUM	FRANC	10	0.4231
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	10	1.2471
ITALY	LIRA	1000	1.2162
JORDAN	DINAR		4.5846
EGYPT	POUND		0.7193
INDIA	RUPEE		2.3588
IRELAND	PUNT		1.3125
SPAIN	PESETA	100	1.3125

### Buyers won't stop bidding

By YEHUDA LITANI

Jerusalemites like the Neve Sha'anun neighbourhood because it is a quiet one and yet very close to the centre and to desirable residential areas such as Rehavia and Beit Hakerem. But a few weeks ago I saw for myself how much Jerusalemites like Neve Sha'anun.

A flat of two-and-a-half rooms (about 65 metres) was offered for sale there. It is on the ground floor with a possibility to enlarge it on the second of the little garden adjoining it.

The starting price was \$70,000 and whoever wanted to buy it was supposed to come at 4 p.m. Sunday. No less than 10 buyers were already there waiting to buy the flat on the spot after a short look at it, which made it clear that about 50 metres could be added to it.

The owner was astonished. After five minutes the price came to \$75,000 and after 15 minutes it was already \$80,000. Some of the bidders took him to the side, offered more money, begging him to sell the property to them and not to the others.

The owner gathered all of us around and, in an instance of unexpected honesty, said: "I am more than happy to sell my apartment for more than I figured before, but you all should know that the outer wall becomes wet during winter, and it will cost more than a few thousand dollars to fix it. Why don't you think about it a while and call me tomorrow."

The warning failed to scare off the buyers. "No, let's meet in an hour and finish the deal!" said several.

Not long after I called the owner. He hadn't sold the flat as of yet, he said, but people keep offering high prices. Up to \$80,000. I only have to choose, he continued, who will be the happy buyer.

### COMPANY RESULTS

Offit Textile Ltd.			
Textile finishing			
Half			
to June 30	1987	1986	
Revenue	NIS 8.8m.	7.76m.	
Net Income	162,000	344,000	

Crystal Ltd.			
Appliances retailing			
Half			
to June 30	1987	1986	
Revenue	NIS 41.5m.	35.9m.	
Net Income	805,000	793,000	
Per share	0.417	0.412	

Light Industries Ltd.			
Ready to wear garments			
Half			
to June 30	1987	1986	
Revenue	NIS 9.3m.	13.06m.	
Net Income	214,700	108,000	

Israel Cold Storage Co.			
Storage facilities			
Half			
to June 30	1987	1986	
Revenue	NIS 43.98m.	31.94m.	
Net Income	325,000	(716,000)	

Telex Technology Development Ltd.			
Lead cells			
Half			
to June 30	1987	1986	
Revenue	NIS 6.24m.	4.28m.	
Net Income	795,900	204,600	

Polytextile Dyeing Works Ltd.			
Textile finishing			
Half			
to June 30	1987	1986	
Revenue	NIS 7.08m.	7.95m.	
Net Income	220,000	108,000	
Per share	4.74	2.39	
* To Sept. 30, 1986			

Gil Weisfelder Industries Ltd.			
Packaging materials			
Half			
to June 30	1987	1986	
Revenue	NIS 14.76m.	11.08m.	
Net Income	(52,800)	(763,400)	

Jerusalem Economic Corp.			
Industrial construction			
Half			
to June 30	1987	1986	
Revenue	NIS 5.49m.	5.11m.	
Net Income	2.21m.	1.33m.	
Per share	10%	6.2%	

Dexter Chemical International Ltd.			
Dyes for textiles			
Half			
to June 30	1987	1986	
Revenue	NIS 2.97m.	2.38m.	
Net Income	(375,000)	(666,000)	

Gilber-Solomon Textile Enterprises Ltd.			
Women's garments			
Half			
to June 30	1987	1986	
Revenue	(193,000)	(201,000)	



### CROSSWORD

#### ACROSS

- A country that is still on the gold standard, apparently (9,5)
- Piece of oriental cruckery Eric shattered with cruel blow (4-4)
- She who inspired the lyrics in the opera "Tosca" (5)
- Short item of late news (4)
- Nursery game in which Tom was caught napping? (4-6)
- What Tacitus called Mona (8)
- Concealed passage one isn't prepared to translate (6)
- Retrograde art takes on its characteristics (6)
- Lend a car out whose days are numbered (8)
- Tea laid up for one of a number of shops (5-5)
- Trilles prized by children (4)
- Italian art school in sea-change (5)
- Accommodation in which parents take pride (5,3)
- What the traffic offender must leave with the police? (4,3,7)

#### DOWN

- Fish I've mullied over, disguising the truth? (7)
- Tall plant that needs plenty of water (4)
- Handy tailored fellow in need of enlightenment (8)
- As much or more than a phrase to express admiration? (2,4)
- Three "gifted" sisters torn to pieces in Thebes (3,7)
- Non-sensical talk from creature that waddles (7)
- Blabbers that are currently in fashion (6,5)
- Imaginative writer who overdraws his account? (11)
- Past food, maybe—and none too much of it (6,4)
- Rickety cart taken over a Holivudean isle by Stevenson (8)
- A youngster taking me inside a place on the coast of California (7)
- The whole of the area there is to see (7)
- Illicitly acquired bunch of pound notes? (6)
- Accustomed to being exploited (4)

#### Friday's Solutions

COMETOTOTHE THRONE  
A B E F I J U N A  
LECTURE PANTHER  
E C T A T A N  
SPAGHETTI SALVE  
U D E E F S  
PARRED STAYPUT  
E C U B A  
DROUGHT ASSAYER  
E C U B A  
EIGHT RETRACTED  
A H H R I E R F  
COMPILE CANTATA  
B A N N E I C  
DANCE ATTENDANCE

#### QUICK SOLUTION

Across: 1. Tossing the caber; 8. Regents; 10. Dentist; 11. Enter-tain; 12. Lodge; 13. Shrimps; 15. Satiety; 17. Dear Sir; 19. Matrise; 21. Fries; 23. Shivering; 25. Noisier; 26. Slender; 27. Engage-ment diary.  
Down: 1. Tureens; 2. Sight; 3. Ignoramus; 4. Gas-bags; 5. Hid-ings; 6. Canal; 7. Buildings; 8. Retreat; 14. Realising; 16. Title deed; 17. Defence; 18. Rostrum; 19. Meissen; 20. Eagerly; 22. Sling; 24. India.

### QUICK CROSSWORD

#### ACROSS

- Quarter-acre
- Blade
- Foot-lever
- Reluctant
- Pluto
- Short hymns
- Collision
- Written
- Combined into one
- Tip
- Means
- Spell
- Clustering
- Clarity

#### DOWN

- Swift
- Aged
- Declining
- Trellis
- Disproportion
- Conjectured
- Group of nations
- Disconnected
- Slope
- Sentimental vocalist
- Dried grape
- Fervor
- French novelist
- Be undisposed

### GENERAL ASSISTANCE

#### EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Elison, 10 Yeshayahu, 222553; Belsam, Salah Eddin, 272318; Shu'fat, Shu'fat Road, 610108; Der Ahdwa, Herod's Gate, 262068.

Tel Aviv: Beni, 174 Dizengoff, 222-398; Fuller, 44 Beel, 546257.

Haifa: Kupat Holim Clalit, 31 Brodetzky, 61123.

Netanya: Kupat Holim Clalit, 31 Brodetzky, 61123.

Kiryat Atza: Kupat Atza, 16 Hanin, Kiryat Atza, 721665.

Haifa: Haness, 33 Sderot Haness, 333312.

Netanya: Laniado

Netanya: Laniado

Netanya: Laniado

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## SOCCER

## Netanya revive '70's memories

Post Sports Staff  
TEL AVIV. — Maccabi Netanya are beginning to suggest seriously that they mean to re-create their heyday of the late seventies, when they achieved the double (1977-78) and won the league in 1979-80. Yesterday, at Bloomfield Stadium, they registered their fourth victory on the trot, their defeat of Shimshon being their ideal curtain-raiser for a fine double-header, which saw champions Betar Jerusalem win a thriller over Hapoel Kfar Sava in the second game. As in the early game, the result was 2-1.

Bloomfield was very much the place to be for the fourth round of the league, when all the games were played, for a change, on Saturday afternoon. But, outside the princely Jaffa stadium, there was a dearth of goals, as if the players elsewhere had over-indulged a little too much over the long weekend. They certainly seemed to have burnt up all their energy in the eating binge for there was a mere 11 goals scored in the five other games.

Except at Bloomfield and in Haifa, there were also small crowds. Perhaps the FA should consider staging all matches at Bloomfield, since the environment at this lovely ground always seems to be conducive to good football and plenty of goals. Yesterday, certainly, proved this point. It was pure theatre, a delight for the 8,000 crowd and the perfect way to end the holiday.

First in action were the top team of the season from up the coast against meekur Shimshon, who are always capable of springing a surprise against the best. Indeed, Shimshon had rather the better of proceedings for most of the game, and were rather unfortunate to fall two goals behind early in the second half, when Ronen Gabai broke the ice by cracking in a firm shot after a good solo run. Yigal Menachem followed in the same way a few minutes later. When his shot careened off the post, the effervescent Shalom Tikva — surely Uri Malmilian's natural successor as the most enterprising midfielder in the country — was on hand to tuck away the rebound.

Shimshon deservedly pulled one back when "Momo" Mizrahi converted a penalty, but Netanya held firm, to keep their perfect record intact. The secret of coupling ties is being able to garner maximum points when you are not in the best form: that was Netanya's story yesterday. They pulled off the win when below par.

The foretaste was fine, but the main course was even more savoury. As usual, Betar Jerusalem supplied plenty of drama. In all their three previous games, the champions have led, only to fail to gain maximum points. Yesterday they did things in reverse, and the unmistakable noises from the Betar changing-rooms were loud signs of relief. Coach Mordechai Spiegler has been under enormous



LEAPFROG. Maccabi Netanya's Shalom Tikva leaps over Shimshon goalkeeper Avi Hadad during yesterday's match.

## Soccer's ugly 2nd face

TEL AVIV. — The fine performance of the two teams on the field of the Bloomfield Stadium was marred — as so much of modern soccer is — by outbreaks of violence. There was first the vicious stabbing of Yediot Aharonot reporter Zedek Yehzekiel (see news pages). Then an altercation broke out between Betar Jerusalem coach Mordechai Spiegler and members of the ITV sports crew. The soundman and cameraman allege that Spiegler attacked them physically and verbally when they tried to interview him during the game. They lodged a complaint with the police. ITV head Uri Porat has also ordered an investigation.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

Maccabi Haifa (01)	Hapoel Petaht Tikva (23)	Ararat, 33	Ramat, 41
Hapoel Be'er Sheva (02)	Mac. Netanya (01)	Mac. Netanya (01)	Mac. Netanya (01)
Shimshon (01)	Mac. Netanya (01)	Mac. Netanya (01)	Mac. Netanya (01)
S. Maccabi, 59 (pts)	Mac. Netanya (01)	Mac. Netanya (01)	Mac. Netanya (01)
Betar Jerusalem (02)	Hapoel Kfar Sava (01)	Hapoel Kfar Sava (01)	Hapoel Kfar Sava (01)
Azadi, 73	Hapoel Kfar Sava (01)	Hapoel Kfar Sava (01)	Hapoel Kfar Sava (01)
Schwartz, 76	Hapoel Kfar Sava (01)	Hapoel Kfar Sava (01)	Hapoel Kfar Sava (01)
Hapoel Lod (01)	Mac. Tel Aviv (01)	Mac. Tel Aviv (01)	Mac. Tel Aviv (01)
Hapoel Lod (01)	Mac. Tel Aviv (01)	Mac. Tel Aviv (01)	Mac. Tel Aviv (01)
Mac. Petaht Tikva (01)	Mac. Tel Aviv (01)	Mac. Tel Aviv (01)	Mac. Tel Aviv (01)
Rafael Cohen, 71	David Levi, 79 (pts)	David Levi, 79 (pts)	David Levi, 79 (pts)

## STANDINGS

1. Mac. Netanya	W	D	L	Pts
2. Mac. TA	W	D	L	Pts
3. Bet. JA	W	D	L	Pts
4. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
5. Hapoel Lod	W	D	L	Pts
6. Shimshon	W	D	L	Pts
7. Hapoel Kfar Sava	W	D	L	Pts
8. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
9. Hapoel Lod	W	D	L	Pts
10. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
11. Hapoel Kfar Sava	W	D	L	Pts
12. Mac. Haifa	W	D	L	Pts
13. Shimshon	W	D	L	Pts
14. Hapoel Lod	W	D	L	Pts

## BRITISH SOCCER

## QPR lead in style

LONDON (AFP). — Queen's Park Rangers regained their winning touch in the English First Division yesterday to extend their lead at the top of the table to four points.

The London club bounced back from their surprise defeat at Oxford last week to register a 2-0 home win over Luton.

After a lacklustre first half, Dean Coney put Rangers ahead in the 20th minute, and Terry Fenwick converted a disputed penalty five minutes from time to seal Luton's first league defeat on the Loftus Road plastic pitch.

A disputed Brian McClair penalty on the stroke of half-time decided the Manchester United-Tottenham clash 1-0 in front of a 47,000 crowd at Old Trafford.

Argentinian midfielder Ossie Ardiles was adjudged to have tripped Danish winger Jesper Olsen just inside the area and the Scotland striker swept home his sixth goal of the season from the spot.

Tottenham's demise enabled Chelsea to claim second place with their 3-0 success at Watford. Scottish under-21 international striker Gordon Durie scored a goal in each half, the second a penalty, and Kerry Dixon added the third to increase the problems of new Watford manager Dave Bassett.

Nottingham Forest moved up to third place with their 2-0 win at Norwich. Neil Webb pressing his claims for an England midfield place with both goals. Arsenal also climbed up the table as captain Kenny Sanson celebrated his 29th birthday by scoring a rare goal nine minutes from time. The 1-0 goal of the match against West Ham spoiled Liam Brady's return to Highbury.

## RYDER CUP GOLF

DUBLIN, Ohio (AFP). — America's golfers stared a humiliating golfing defeat in the face yesterday, after Europe's best players stretched their lead in the Ryder Cup to 8½-3½.

After a nerve-tingling performance in front of a massive crowd, the Europeans won the second series of foursomes 2½-1½ to get to within six points of retaining the gold cup they won in 1985, thereby recording their first ever win on American soil since the series was first started 60 years ago.

## CAESAREA GOLF

## Dad's rival

CAESAREA. — Twelve-handicap Hillel Yosef of Or Akiva won Friday's tournament with a 3 under-par 70 net. But he was pushed all the way — he only came home by one stroke — by somebody with the same surname, a certain Porat Yosef, handicap 17 — who happens to be his 13-year old son.

The sports pages are edited by Philip Gillon and Yoram Kessel.

## SOCCER ROUND UP

## SECOND DIVISION

1. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	1	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	1
2. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	2	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	2
3. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	3	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	3
4. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	4	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	4
5. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	5	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	5
6. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	6	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	6
7. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	7	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	7
8. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	8	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	8
9. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	9	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	9
10. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	10	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	10
11. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	11	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	11
12. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	12	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	12
13. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	13	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	13
14. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	14	Hapoel Be'er Sheva	14

## STANDINGS

1. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
2. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
3. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
4. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
5. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
6. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
7. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
8. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
9. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
10. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
11. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
12. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
13. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts
14. Hapoel Be'er Sheva	W	D	L	Pts

## BASEBALL

## Mets keep everyone guessing

NEW YORK (AP). — In their chase after the St. Louis Cardinals, the New York Mets have teased their fans and fooled themselves.

The Mets moved to within 2½ games of first-place St. Louis in the National League East on August 20, fell back to 5½ on August 31 and moved to within 1½ on September 9.

The Mets held a 4-1 ninth-inning lead over St. Louis on September 11, only to have the Cardinals rally to win 5-4.

## AMERICAN LEAGUE EAST

Toronto	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	W	L	Pct	GB

## WEST DIVISION

Minnesota	W	L	Pct	GB
California	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	W	L	Pct	GB

## Friday's games: Cleveland 7, California 5;

Toronto 4, Detroit 2; New York 5, Baltimore 4;

Kansas City 6, Minnesota 4; Boston 9, Milwaukee 2;

Chicago 2, Oakland 1, 10 innings;

Seattle 12, Texas 3.

Thursday's games: Toronto 4, Detroit 3;

Minnesota 4, Texas 6; Milwaukee 7, Boston 6;

Chicago 4, Oakland 2.

Wednesday's games: Toronto 6, Baltimore 1;

Detroit 4, Boston 5; Milwaukee 8, New York 7;

Cleveland 8, Oakland 6; Minnesota 4, Texas 2;

California 10, Chicago 6; Kansas City 9, Seattle 6.

Wednesday's games: Philadelphia 5, Chicago 4;

Atlanta 5, Houston 4; New York 4, Montreal 3;

Pittsburgh 2, St. Louis 6; San Diego 6, Cincinnati 4;

San Francisco 9, Los Angeles 8.

## U.S. FOOTBALL

## Games cancelled as talks stalled

PHILADELPHIA (AP). — The two negotiating teams involved in the National Football League labour talks have retreated to their respective huddles in an attempt to come up with a new game plan.

Negotiations designed to end the current players strike broke off on Friday after management and the union decided they agreed on virtually nothing. No new talks are scheduled.

"We have to re-evaluate our positions," NFL Management Council executive director Jack Donlan said after 17½ hours of talks over three days. "What we've been doing here isn't working."

Meanwhile, union solidarity appeared to be eroding in Denver and Dallas on Friday, the fourth day of the walkout.

The Broncos didn't report for picket duty even though 57 substitute players were practising. And Cowboys tight end Doug Cosbie said some of his teammates "may be ready" to end their walkout.

With today's games cancelled, owners were preparing for play on October 4 with replacement teams made of free agents, castoffs and others.

The battle over free agency — a player's right to change teams after his contract expires — remains the single biggest obstacle to ending the league's second walkout in six years.

"We don't have anything that's stuck in stone, except perhaps our position on free agency, and we feel we've already compromised on that," Donlan said.

Union head Gene Upshaw remained adamant on the issue. The players' union wants unrestricted free agency for players with more than three years' experience. Owners have offered only to reduce the compensation to limit losing a player through free agency.

"We're stuck in our position, whether it's at home or on the road. We hold them where our position is and we intend to stay in our position," Upshaw said after Friday's meeting.

"We came to bargain, they came to leave," he said. "This is no more than a test for the players, to see if the players will stick together over the next few days or next couple of weeks. If that's what it takes."

Further talks are only a phone call away, both sides said, but only if there is something different to discuss.

"If we continue to meet it gives everyone a false impression, a false message," Donlan said. "I think we have to have a real talk to negotiate, to make a deal. I don't think we're there yet. Maybe they should get in touch with people and take a hard look at their position."

Donlan said only one new team had been put on the table. He said the owners offered to distribute a \$18 million fund to the union's pension fund.

The last NFL strike, in 1982, last-



UNFAIR TO WHOM? — Los Angeles Raiders' Van McElroy (l) and Jerry Robinson picket the team's training facility. (AP)

The money, which the players' union says the owners owe them from the 1982 collective bargaining agreement, is currently the subject of a court case.

"Any thoughts that it would be a one week, two-week or a three-week strike is probably wishful thinking, or someone is being misled," said Tex Schramm, the Dallas Cowboys president, who left the talks on Wednesday along with Dan Rooney, the Pittsburgh Steelers' president.

"If this (free agency) is the only issue that is prolonging the strike, then it could be a long one."

The last NFL strike, in 1982, last-

ed 57 days and wiped out seven weeks of the season.

The walkout by Schramm and Rooney came just hours after Commissioner Pete Rozelle announced that the weekend's games were off.

Meanwhile, picket line confrontations continued.

In Anaheim, California, Rams offensive lineman Robert Cole pushed his fist through a window of a van carrying replacements. Defensive end Doug Reed splattered the van with eggs and shouted, "Go home, strikers."

It was practically the same thing in Indianapolis, where striking Colts threw eggs at a bus. At the New York Jets' camp in Hempstead, New York, striking players concealed about five dozen eggs in a baby carriage and threw them at their replacements.

Among those being picketed was defensive end Mark Gastman, who chose to cross the picket line.

## TENNIS

## Zoref rejects Stabholz's call

By JACK LEON

TEL AVIV. — Israel's Davis Cup tennis coach Shlomo Zoref has rejected out of hand a recommendation by non-playing captain Yosef Stabholz that Zoref resign from the team. Stabholz announced his resignation last Tuesday, at the same time suggesting that similar action should be taken by his fellow-members of the team's professional staff involved in the recent cup fiasco against India. (The other members of the professional staff were Zoref, trainer Pini Shimon and masseur Michel Portet.)

Zoref told me on Wednesday that he had already received telephone calls from Shlomo Glickstein, Amos Mansdorf and Gila Bloom urging him not to resign. They also congratulated Zoref on the fine job he has done in what was his first season as coach. In addition, there was a call from Israel Tennis Association

chairman David Harnik, expressing appreciation of what Zoref has done this year for the Davis Cup team.

Zoref, 32, took over as coach from Ron Steele in May, 1986. Since then, Israel has beaten in turn Belgium, Holland, Switzerland and Czechoslovakia — the last three countries away from home — prior to suffering their crushing 4-0 defeat in New Delhi.

"It was both stupid and presumptuous of Yossi to recommend my resignation as coach, after little more than a year on the job, a year which proved to be by far Israel's most successful in the Davis Cup since Israel entered the competition in 1949. After all, Yossi was the team's non-playing captain for as long as 11 years."

Zoref pointed out that Israel had suffered many bad cup losses prior to his becoming coach. "But no probing questions were asked then,

and we never heard calls for anyone's resignation." I naturally accept my share of responsibility for the disastrous performance against India, while feeling that this defeat has to be set against our four cup victories during my short period as coach.

"I believe that I still have plenty to contribute to the progress of the Davis Cup team, though I have no intention of clinging to the job if I do not succeed."

Zoref said he had "a strong feeling" that Mansdorf will return to the Davis Cup team well before Israel starts its 1988 campaign next February. The enfant terrible of Israeli tennis quit the side following the disciplinary measures taken against him by Stabholz in New Delhi. For the past three weeks, Mansdorf has been among the seven members of the national men's squad working out with Zoref at Ramat Hasharon.

## BASKETBALL

## Hopeful season kicks off this week

By DON GOULD

Despite the poor showing of Israel's National Basketball team in Bulgaria earlier this month, there is still every reason to believe that this year's National Basketball League will continue to improve on the standards set in previous seasons. New and exciting young players have begun to come to the fore.

Nadav Henefeld of Gali Elyon and Ari Rosenberg of Maccabi Haifa, two of the rising stars, despite their youth, have shown that they can play fine basketball against the best in Europe.

Yosav Kadmon and Motti Daniel have returned from two year stints at American colleges and have given great hope to their new teams. Daniel will play for the champions, Maccabi Tel Aviv, and Kadmon will be with Elitzur Netanya.

Zvika Sherf, who toiled for four years at Maccabi Tel Aviv has moved to Elitzur Netanya. Yossi Harari, his predecessor there, has

gone to Maccabi Haifa. Pini Gershon, who spent last year at Maccabi Haifa has now taken over the helm of Betar Tel Aviv. Muli Katzorin, formerly of Hapoel Holon, has taken over the reins at Gali Elyon.

Hapoel Holon has gone an entirely different route, bringing over an American coach, Marvin Kessler. New entry in the league, Ramle has Yaacov Adler at the helm. Two years ago he finished the season with Hapoel Tel Aviv. The other new entry, Maccabi Netanya will be coached by Aris Shivaik.

Betar Tel Aviv and Elitzur Netanya kick off the new season tonight when they face off against each other at the Yael Elyon Sports Palace. Tomorrow night the other 10 teams will start the new season. The schedule Elitzur Netanya at Betar Tel Aviv, Sunday Ramle at Hapoel Holon; Hapoel Tel Aviv at Maccabi Haifa; Hapoel Haifa at Maccabi Tel Aviv; Maccabi Netanya at Hapoel Jerusalem; Maccabi Ramat Gan at Gali Elyon.

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## THE GREAT JERUSALEM TREASURE HUNT



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## Soviet smiles

ANNUAL meetings in New York between the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and of Israel have come to be regarded as a matter of routine. During recent years such meetings would take place on the occasion of the annual UN General Assembly and each time Israel would be looking for some signs of change in the Soviet position. But another year would pass and the much hoped for thaw in Moscow's icy attitude towards the Jewish State would not materialize.

It is with this past experience in mind that one should judge last Wednesday's public smiles of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, standing next to Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, after their unusually long meeting at the Soviet mission in New York. The Russians' readiness to allow press coverage at the beginning of their meeting and Mr. Shevardnadze's willingness to speak to reporters afterwards, together with Mr. Peres, certainly represent a new departure in the Soviet public attitude towards Israel.

The most significant point perhaps was the statement by the Soviet foreign minister expressing the Kremlin's intention to intensify and regularize Israel-Soviet contacts. It is in this area that one should probably look for future developments which no longer will limit these top-level contacts to annual meetings only. Whether the present extended stay in Israel of the Soviet consular mission is likely to provide such a channel is still a moot point, particularly in view of a recent interview by the mission's head in "Izvestia" stating that it will not assume any diplomatic functions.

Mr. Peres termed Wednesday's talks with his Soviet counterpart as the "friendliest, most thorough and most open meeting" between Israeli and Soviet representatives to date. He made it a point to report immediately to Prime Minister Shamir about the meeting, a rather unusual move given their strained relations.

One of the important talking points at the meeting was the international peace conference, an issue on which the Israeli side discerned a measure of flexibility on the part of the Soviets. To judge by initial reports, Moscow appears to be more lenient regarding the thorny question of Palestinian representation at such a conference and is also willing to rule out any imposing function of the conference plenum.

If these reports should be confirmed they would represent a significant change in the Soviet attitude. Meanwhile, Tass reported over the weekend that more exit visas to refuseniks are likely to be granted. It seems that the Kremlin makes it a point to translate Soviet smiles into deeds whenever it suits it.

There is no question that the recent progress in U.S.-Soviet relations has provided the background for what could become an Israeli and a Jewish phase of "glasnost." For any change for the better, however slight, in Moscow's attitude towards Jerusalem and towards Soviet Jewry has always been a function of improved East-West relations.

At one point during Wednesday's impromptu press conference, Israel's Foreign Minister asked Shevardnadze not to refer to him as "Mr. Peres," but as "Tovarisch." The Soviet Foreign Minister willingly complied with this request. Just a slight gesture, but in the complex Israel-Soviet relations symbolic gestures also play a role.

## SOVIETS

(Continued from Page One)

Shevardnadze said he and Peres had a "useful discussion" and had established a "working atmosphere which enables us to discuss the problems most related to the peace settlement in a specific and substantive way." Referring to the Israeli minister as "Comrade Peres," Shevardnadze remarked: "The most important thing is that we have agreed our contacts will continue and Comrade Peres is of the same view."

During a press conference at the UN last Wednesday, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said that "the climate of the meeting was favourable. The talks were friendly... We discussed the Middle East and the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East."

Gerasimov said, the Soviet side had "expressed satisfaction" that Israel had agreed to an extension of the stay of the Soviet consular group in Israel, adding facetiously: "The delegation is looking after Soviet real estate [in Israel], and, after all, real estate is a serious business."

However, Gerasimov said there was "no change" in the Soviet position on diplomatic relations with Israel, which he said "must be solved parallel to the original problem: Israeli aggression against its Arab neighbours."

Gerasimov seemed to signal a possible Soviet step towards Peres' position on Palestinian participation in an international peace conference when he said that it would be impossible to hold an international peace conference on the Middle East "without Palestinian participation... that is the PLO or people recognized by the PLO."

Gerasimov added: "All now accept that you cannot have a solution [to the Middle East conflict] without Soviet participation," but noted that "arguments for and against [Soviet participation in an international peace conference] continue in Israel."

Gerasimov noted that Jewish emigration from the USSR had "increased" and claimed that Soviet emigration rules had been "eased somewhat" by regulations passed

earlier this year.

In remarks to Israeli reporters, a tired but clearly pleased Peres said that Shevardnadze had quoted a recent statement by General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev to Syrian President Hafez Assad that "it is not normal that there are no normal relations between the Soviet Union and Israel."

Peres continued: "I said to Shevardnadze that there is a real disagreement between us on the meaning of relations between the two states. He sees diplomatic relations as a prize to be given to the Israelis. I see it as a means for moving towards a [peace] agreement."

Stressing that his meeting with Shevardnadze had been "different from what I thought, heard, or read about meetings with the Russian," Peres remarked, "I met a Soviet foreign minister without a trace of enmity towards the Jewish people or Israel." Peres said Shevardnadze sees the recent U.S.-USSR agreement on medium-range nuclear missiles as "an extraordinary opening to a new era... and believed that the movement created should be applied to the Middle East."

Shevardnadze had also raised the subject of Israeli missiles, which the Soviets charged recently, threaten the southern parts of the Soviet Union. According to Peres, Shevardnadze said: "America and Russia are richer than Israel, and they came to the conclusion that money shouldn't be invested in missiles. You and the Arabs are both small, but you invest so much in missiles."

Peres also held talks Tuesday and Wednesday with the Polish and Hungarian foreign ministers. Each minister expressed satisfaction with his country's establishment of consular relations with Israel, and expressed interest in strengthening cultural, commercial and tourism ties.

Peres's spokesman, Uri Savir, said yesterday: "There was more progress [at the meeting with Shevardnadze] than at all of the other [Israeli-Soviet] meetings put together." He said Israel was "waiting for an answer" from the Soviets on its demand for direct flights.

## KOVNER

(Continued from Page One)

Kibbutz Ein Hahoresh in the Sharon. In the War of Independence he was the cultural officer of the Givati Brigade which fought on the southern and Negev fronts and became famous for his morale-boosting battle reports.

Kovner was one of the initiators of the Bet Hafeutsoth Diaspora

Museum in Tel Aviv. He published numerous short stories, essays and poems. His latest book, *Sloan-Kettering*, about the New York City medical centre where he was treated for cancer of the larynx two years ago, was published last week.

Kovner's body will lie in state at the entrance to Bet Hafeutsoth tomorrow morning. The funeral will be held at Ein Hahoresh at 4 p.m.

"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings; be instructed, ye judges of the earth." (Psalms, 2:9-10)

AFTER A LENGTHY debate lasting months, the Israeli government at its meeting of August 30 decided to cancel the Lavi project by a vote of 12-11. By a show of 12 hands, some emphatic, others hesitant, the government "dashed to pieces" Israel's greatest technological achievement and shattered the dream of an Israeli fighter aircraft.

Some called it a courageous decision, and if shooting yourself in the leg requires courage, that quality might be discerned in this act. But usually self-inflicted wounds reflect poor judgement rather than courage.

Maybe experts in mass psychology can explain the causes of this unfortunate decision. Probably "group dynamics" managed to sway those ministers who started as enthusiastic supporters of the Lavi, and ended by voting for its cancellation.

The "collective rape" perpetrated by the Labour Party ministers on our minister of health may from now on appear as an additional chapter in the theory of group dynamics. But it is exceedingly difficult to present a convincing argument, based on a balance between expected ability and penalties, for cancelling a programme that had already passed over two-thirds of the development cycle and whose successful conclusion was assured.

Many things were said in the heat of debate, some that were inaccurate, others that were incorrect. Possibly the fundamental considerations on which the final conclusion should have rested are not clear to the public to this day. It may be worthwhile, even after the fact, to point out those issues on which the decision to continue or cancel the programme should have been based.

### The Quality of the Aircraft

THE SUPPORTERS of the Lavi claimed that it is far superior to the F-16, currently considered the best fighter in the world. The opponents argued that it was only slightly better than the F-16 and was essentially in the same class.

On what qualities should a modern fighter be judged? Once, it was maximum speed that served as the outstanding mark of superiority. But not anymore. The Kfir's maximum speed exceeds Mach 2, while the F-16's is only Mach 1.6, and yet it is superior to the Kfir. The Lavi's maximum speed is also Mach 1.6. Aerial combat and ground attack missions are not carried out at such

speeds and that performance parameter is therefore of secondary importance.

For many years the fighter aircraft's maneuvering capability was considered its outstanding quality, which permitted its pilot to out-manoeuvre the enemy and fire his cannon rounds or missiles from a position of advantage. Getting on the enemy's tail decided the outcome of aerial dog-fights.

The primary advantage of the F-16 is its maneuvering capability which is far superior to the previous generation of fighter aircraft. The Lavi's maneuvering capability is essentially equivalent to that of the F-16. But lately, the importance of maneuvering capability is receding. Aerial combat is now carried out at long range, frequently beyond the visual range of the pilots, using long-range missiles that can be fired head-on without the need to "sit on the enemy's tail."

Locating the aircraft, "locking" on it and "tracking" it with the fire-control system, and missile launch, these are the key elements of aerial combat in the electronic battlefield of the future. Therefore, the most important quality demanded of the next generation aircraft is "survivability."

When it comes to "survivability," the Lavi, far from being in the same class as the F-16, is actually a generation ahead of it. It is an aircraft difficult to locate in the sky, hard to track, hard to "lock on," and therefore difficult to hit. The Lavi is physically smaller than the F-16, its "radar cross-section" and infra-red signature are smaller by an order of magnitude than those of the F-16. Its electronic warfare systems are novel and technologically advanced.

In addition, the Lavi has a unique omni-directional warning system that alerts the pilot of approaching threats from any direction, while artificial intelligence is used to ease the pilot's work load in dealing with these threats.

The Lavi was designed at the Israel Aircraft Industries to meet the specifications drawn up by the Israel Air Force. These were the requirements of the IAF for its future fighter aircraft, and the IAI engineers were brilliantly successful in meeting them. No wonder then that the September 7th issue of *Aviation Week* writes, "If the Lavi, with its sophisticated avionics suite, lives up to its billing as a new-generation ground-attack aircraft, it should not be overlooked as a candidate for the

# The Lavi decision: a self-inflicted wound

## Moshe Arens

U.S. Air Force's emerging Close Air Support aircraft requirement." **Economic Considerations**

IF EVEN THOSE who opposed completion of the Lavi development had no criticism of its performance, obviously the decision criterion should have been economic. Will there be a saving, and how much of a saving, if F-16 aircraft are required instead of Lavis?

As of now, \$1.3 billion have been invested in the development of the Lavi and the initial preparations for its production. It should be noted that not a penny of this investment came from the Israeli Treasury. It was totally funded by the U.S. in accordance with legislation enacted by the Congress in November 1983, budgeting \$550 million for the Lavi for the 1984 fiscal year and providing an unprecedented authorization to convert \$250 million to Israeli currency to fund the Lavi development effort in Israel.

These allocations were again authorized in the following years. These funds were used not only for the current Lavi development, but also to "refund" all Lavi expenditures prior to 1984. In addition, the Treasury "deducted" about \$50 million a year in value added taxes.

U.S. funding of the Lavi actually constituted an incremental increase in U.S. military assistance to Israel. In the fiscal year 1984, this assistance was composed of \$850 million in grants and \$850 million in loans at commercial interest rates. In the fiscal years 1985, 1986, 1987 military assistance was provided all as grants, and increased from \$1.4 billion in 1985 to \$1.8 billion in 1987. The anticipated annual expenditure of \$550 million on the Lavi project obviously influenced the large increase in the level of assistance to Israel.

If there was any logic at all in halting the Lavi development after half the investment had already been made, and much of the technology already proven, then it must be based on two assumptions.

1. Acquisition of F-16s instead of Lavis will result in significant savings.  
 2. The U.S. Congress will agree in future years to permit conversion of these savings to Israeli currency for funding of what is referred to as the IDF "alternatives."

The first assumption is connected

with the following estimates:

1. The cost of completing the Lavi development and its production costs.
2. The cost of terminating the Lavi programme.
3. The purchase price of F-16 aircraft in future years.

All of these estimates are clouded by uncertainties. It is actually the cost of completing the Lavi development and its production costs that can be predicted with greatest confidence, since the expenditure items are well defined and will be under local control.

On the other hand, the programme termination costs, which are dependent on the demands to be made by the large number of Lavi programme subcontractors in Israel and the U.S. whose contracts will have to be broken, are difficult to estimate at this time. However, it is already clear that they will run in the hundreds of millions of dollars and may even approach the billion-dollar mark.

The purchase price of F-16 aircraft in future years is not certain at this point. Past experience indicates that we should expect steep increases. The current batch of 75 F-16s acquired by the IAF cost exactly twice what was paid for the first batch of 75 F-16s purchased only a few years ago.

When taking account of the termination costs and the anticipated escalation in the price of F-16s, it is not at all clear that cancellation of the Lavi programme will result in any significant savings. The September 7th issue of *Aviation Week* writes: "As for cost savings, the price tag for terminating outstanding Lavi contracts has yet to be tallied up and the economics that are to be achieved by pressuring the Israeli Defence Ministry to buy large quantities of the F-16 could well prove to be overstated. In the long run, neither Israel nor the U.S. may see any big cost savings."

As opposed to the cost uncertainties, one thing is already clear - the Lavi cancellation will deal a heavy blow to the credibility of Israel's defence establishment in the eyes of the U.S., and particularly in the Congress. The special aid for the Lavi was authorized by Congress, under the impression that fighter aircraft designed to Israel Air Force specifications was bound to be one of the best fighters in the world.

It was even said at the time that the Pentagon might learn from the art of the Israeli Ministry of Defence the art of

decision-making regarding weapons system development and procurement.

Regardless of whether these impressions were actually rooted in reality, they will obviously be gone with the wind after Israel announces that the Lavi had been a \$2 billion mistake at the expense of the American taxpayer. Many of Israel's friends in Congress who supported the Lavi over initial opposition from the Pentagon will doubtless be hurt and embarrassed.

With this in mind, it is not at all obvious that congressional authorization can be obtained in future years to convert whatever savings may result from the Lavi cancellation to Israeli currency for the use of the IDF "alternatives." Even the most outspoken opponents of the Lavi will have to admit that cancellation of the programme might leave us without the Lavi as well as without the Lavi funding from the U.S.

### The Human Element

IN ADDITION to technical and economic considerations, the human element of the Lavi issue should not be ignored. The origin of the Lavi was David Ben-Gurion's decision to establish a department of Aeronautical Engineering at the Technion in the early Fifties. At the time, many ridiculed B-G's "megalomania," but it was that department, founded by the great aeronautical scientist Dr. Sidney Goldstein, that served as the foundation stone for Israel's great aeronautical industry.

Over the years, thousands of engineers and tens of thousands of technicians and production workers reached a standard of professional excellence that allowed them to compete with the most advanced aircraft industries in the world. No doubt that cancellation of the Lavi will inevitably bring about the loss of this great investment in Israel's human resources during the past 30 years.

What led 12 of Israel's ministers to arrive at the unfortunate decision to cancel the Lavi? The inescapable conclusion is that, when faced by conflicting data and opinions, their instincts took over. Some said that this was "too big for Israel," that we could not possibly compete with the industries of the U.S. and Western Europe, that "we had not yet won a single war by the use of Israel's developed weapons." And there were others who believed in our ability to provide the IAF with the best fighter in the world.

There is general agreement that the government's decision was amongst the most important ever taken by an Israeli government. If the decision was mistaken, it will go down as the greatest error since the "fatal mistake" made on the eve of the Yom Kippur War. With one big difference - it can still be corrected.

## READERS' LETTERS

### U.S. TAX RETURNS

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - a relatively obscure provision of the U.S. Tax Reform Act of 1986 may have a vital impact upon the many U.S. citizens residing in Israel.

U.S. citizens who live abroad are required to file U.S. Tax returns and pay tax on their worldwide income. Special rules may eliminate or reduce the tax, such as the limited exclusion for earned income, or the foreign tax credit. Income from dividends, interest, pensions, etc. from whatever source must be reported.

Congress has been furnished evidence that a substantial percentage of overseas Americans fail to comply with the income tax laws of their country. These fall into various categories. First, there is the negligent non-filer who assumes that residence abroad exempts him from filing, or who assumes that the earned income exclusion will eliminate any tax, and thus excuse the failure to file.

Secondly, there is the fraudulent non-filer: those who know their duty but do not fulfil it. Congressional concern was evidenced by attempting to correct these situations in the new revenue act.

With respect to the negligent non-filer, Congress emphasized that a return be filed (provided the gross income threshold is met), even by those who believe that their tax is

zero, in order to enable the taxing authorities to have an opportunity to determine whether taxpayers have properly applied the provisions of the law. With respect to the fraudulent tax evaders, it is important for the integrity of the tax system that the government have the ability to detect these people and have them pay their share of the tax burden.

Consequently, the act provides that an information return be filed in connection with a passport application. This return must provide the applicant's identification number, foreign address, and any other information that may be required, such as a record of the past three years' income tax returns filed. Severe penalties are imposed for failure to comply. This will enable the internal revenue service to locate taxpayers abroad.

To facilitate the collection of tax, the act provides for mandatory withholding of tax from pensions and similar payments made after December 31, 1986. The information reporting requirements apply to passport applications submitted after December 31, 1987. Of course, income tax returns must be filed annually.

These new requirements affect those who have made aliya and their children who are U.S. citizens.

LEONARD H. CARTER, C.P.A.  
 Palm Beach, Florida.

### ISRAEL'S RECORD ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - The lavishly illustrated *Twenty Years of Civil Administration in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District (1967-1987)*, published (in English) by the Ministry of Defence, resembles an uncanny report by a colonial governor on how he has looked after the natives in his care. The implications that the achievements set out in this glossy 110-page booklet, replete with colour photographs (which is meant for?), are all due to a benevolent administration, ought to be re-examined.

Some data seem impressive: the infrastructure - roads, vocational training, hospitals, schools - has been considerably improved in the last 20 years. Thus the 3,000 phone subscribers in the West Bank in 1967 have increased to some 20,000. However, Jordan regarded its Palestinians, especially those in the West Bank, as second class citizens; Egypt did not strip the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip citizens at all. Any public investment in those areas was thus bound to have a disproportionate beneficial effect.

The standard of living rose sharply, as evidenced, i.a. in the construction of residential housing and in the possession of appliances. Two per cent of West bank households had electric refrigerators at the end of Jordan's occupation; today the figure is 75 per cent. Infant mortality in the Gaza area fell from 80 per 1,000 live births to 30. (The figure for Israel, including Israeli Arabs, is 11). These improvements are partly a by-product of the free access of the population to Israel for 20 years.

The outstanding feature of the pamphlet, however, is the amount of whitewash expended on it. Nary a problem exists. The long years of occupation by Israel - the term is, of course, not used - were untroubled and passed smoothly. Only on p.54, about the four universities, where none had existed in 1967, it is conceded that the colleges "have been exploited by terrorist organizations," students often disrupt public order and the administration "had no choice but to close institutions for short periods."

Samuel Goren, coordinator of Government Operations in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District, concludes his introduction to the brochure thus: "The Civil Administration sees its activities... also as a bridge to peace in the M.E. All the achievements of the past 20 years could not have come about without the devoted work of the staff, both civilian and military. To them we extend our deepest gratitude. I am sure that the population of the areas join me in thanking them."

Are you really sure, Mr. Goren?  
 MICHAEL J. BERGER  
 Jerusalem.

### THE WUJS INSTITUTE

To the Editor of *The Jerusalem Post* Sir, - I was saddened and concerned to read the report of the possible closure of the Wujs Institute in Arad (August 13).

The brilliant concept of this institute is that it is designed solely to attract graduates immediately after they qualify at university. At this time, they are fully trained, unhampered by family and work commitments, and most able to make a new and exhilarating start.

Wujs offers them six months of study (Hebrew and general subjects) and then six months of work in their chosen fields. This, over the years, has brought thousands of highly qualified young people to the country, many of whom have now happily

settled here and are leaders in their own fields. Even those who do not settle have returned home with fond memories and become the backbone of our much-needed friends in the Diaspora.

What a sad loss it will be if Wujs fails! Has the Jewish Agency any other programme which, with so relatively small a budget, has so high a success story as regards aliya, and in particular aliya of highly qualified professional and academic people? This, after all, is the purpose of the Jewish Agency. The failure of Wujs will be a public admission that neither the agency nor the country is really interested in aliya.

MICHAEL D. FINESTONE  
 Tel Aviv.

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